

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

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2004 Regular Session
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By: **Senator McFadden (By Request - Baltimore City Administration)**
Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2004
Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Compact for Sound Government**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the General Assembly supports the establishment
4 of an ongoing mechanism for agreements between the State and its political
5 subdivisions that improve the life chances of certain populations, save public
6 resources by avoiding certain predictable long-term State expenditures, and
7 redirect a share of certain savings to ongoing efforts to improve the lives and
8 futures of vulnerable children and families at risk; and generally relating to the
9 establishment of a mechanism for agreement between the State and its political
10 subdivisions to improve life changes for certain populations.

11 WHEREAS, It costs less to invest in opportunity than to pay for failure; and

12 WHEREAS, It is far less expensive to use our scarce public resources to pay for
13 drug treatment rather than for foster care, for preventive health care rather than for
14 emergency room care, and for an adequate public education rather than for detention
15 and incarceration; and

16 WHEREAS, Many jurisdictions across the State have been working to improve
17 the life chances of vulnerable citizens by developing and funding initiatives that
18 create opportunities and avoid negative outcomes; and

19 WHEREAS, The successful implementation of these initiatives reduces future
20 liabilities on government for deep-end or remedial services; and

21 WHEREAS, Currently all such savings to the State revert to the State General
22 Fund; now, therefore, be it

23 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the
24 General Assembly supports the establishment of an ongoing mechanism for
25 agreements between the State and its 24 political subdivisions that:

26 (a) improve the life chances of five specific populations:

27 (1) young families in crisis;

28 (2) children entering school unprepared to learn and to succeed;

1 (3) disconnected youth at risk of harming others or causing harm to
2 themselves;

3 (4) recovering substance abusers with dependent children; and

4 (5) ex-offenders returning to society; and

5 (b) save scarce public resources by avoiding the predictable long-term State
6 expenditures associated with continued poor outcomes for the populations listed
7 above; and

8 (c) redirect a share of savings accrued by the agreements for ongoing efforts to
9 improve the lives and futures of vulnerable children and families at risk in the
10 political subdivisions where these efforts are underway; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That agreements established in accordance with this Resolution
12 would authorize the return of a significant portion of State General Fund savings and
13 any federal savings or increased revenue maximization allowed by law to the political
14 subdivisions of the State for further investment in opportunity, prevention, or early
15 intervention for the populations listed above to generate future savings; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
18 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
19 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
20 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.